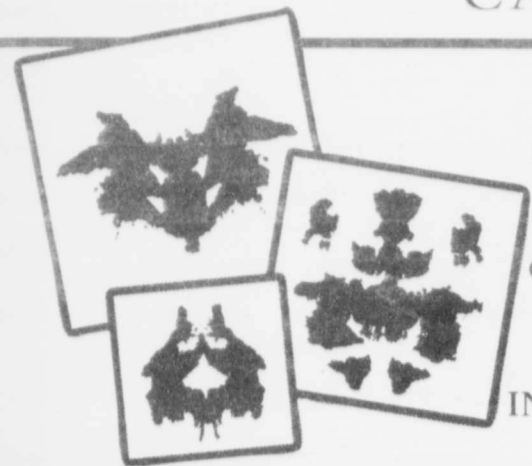


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MUSTANG DAILY

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY



Cal Poly athletes have psychology on their side.

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President Obama speaks at Arizona State University today.

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"Last Comic Standing" star comes to campus tonight.

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Poly students changing house, changing lives



COURTESY PHOTO

The house currently being renovated will help Samantha Rueck, a 16-year-old San Miguel girl with a history of seizures. After going into a coma, she has been nearly confined to her home.

Mikaela Akuna

MUSTANG DAILY

Every week people around the country watch "Extreme Home Makeover" to see Ty Pennington and his team recreate the home of a family in need. Viewers learn about each family's extraordinary stories, hear the infamous "Move that bus!" and watch the families' reactions as they see their home transformed into a more functional and livable space.

Now, thanks to a class at Cal Poly, a family

equally in need in San Miguel is watching their home be renovated as well.

Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering 556, a class with a focus on project management, is currently renovating the home of Samantha Rueck, a 16-year-old girl who has been suffering from seizures all her life. Rueck's grandparents have adopted her and work hard to accommodate her special needs. But as a growing individual, working with her has become more and more difficult as she's gotten older.

Rueck suffered complications during her last surgery and was in a coma for 12 days. Subsequently, she has become completely dependent on others, mostly her grandparents, to function.

"They were living in really poor conditions," industrial and manufacturing engineering graduate student and coordination project manager James Pickering said. "When we first talked to them, Mrs. Rueck said that 'anything we could manage would be appreciated.'"

The Poly House crew plans on putting in a roll-in, wheelchair accessible, shower. They're also expanding the doorway of the bathroom so her grandparents can more easily carry her through the space. A new heating system is being put in the home to accommodate Rueck's sensitivity to temperature.

Poly House has extended the entire house two feet, despite early reports that it couldn't be done. The expansion makes it possible to

see Poly House, page 2

Mental health care questioned after shooting

Robert H. Reid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) — The U.S. military command launched an investigation Tuesday into whether it offers adequate mental health care to its soldiers, a day after a sergeant finishing up his third tour of Iraq allegedly shot and killed five comrades at a clinic on a U.S. base.

Sgt. John M. Russell, 44, of Sherman, Texas, was taken into custody outside a mental health clinic at Camp Liberty following Monday's shooting and charged with five counts of murder and one of aggravated assault,

Maj. Gen. David Perkins said.

The case, the deadliest of the war involving soldier-on-soldier violence, has cast a spotlight on combat stress and emotional problems resulting from frequent deployments to battle zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Up to one-fifth of the more than 1.7 million who have served in the two conflicts are believed to have symptoms of anxiety, depression and other emotional problems. Some studies show that about half of those who need help do not seek it.

Russell's father said his son, who joined the Army in

1994 after a divorce and minor scrapes with the law, felt poorly treated at the stress center. He said he hopes "we find he snapped because of the pressure. He wasn't a mean person."

In Baghdad, Perkins told reporters that Russell, a communications specialist assigned to the 54th Engineer Battalion from Bamberg, Germany, was sent to the mental health clinic by his superiors, presumably because of concern over his emotional state.

He said the commander had ordered Russell's weapon taken away from him but somehow he got a new

weapon, entered the clinic and opened fire.

Perkins declined to give a detailed account of the shooting, saying the matter was under investigation.

However, a Pentagon official said in Washington that Russell had been escorted to the clinic, but once inside argued with the staff and was asked to leave.

After he drove away, Russell apparently seized his escort's weapon and returned to the clinic, the official said on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

The clinic was operated

see Soldier, page 2



COURTESY PHOTO

This U.S. Army photo made available via the family on Tuesday shows U.S. Army Sgt. John M. Russell.

Poly House

continued from page 1

add another bedroom and create her roll-in shower.

They will also be installing a track attached to the ceiling that will run from Reuck's bedroom to the living room, where she spends most of her time. This way the family won't have to push or carry her, but rather, they will be able to slide her along. They're also widening the window in her room for better viewing.

Since Reuck's grandparents want their house to be a safe haven for neighborhood children to play in, Poly House will be installing a large play structure, a half basketball court and a vegetable garden in the surrounding land.

Poly House has been an annual project that has been remodeling homes for local families since 2004. Planning on the Reuck house project started in mid-April and construction began last weekend and will finish this upcoming weekend. This week will be used for progress analysis and status reports as well as any adjustments that might be needed.

Poly House is almost entirely dependant on sponsors and fundraisers to fund the project and has benefited from the donations of many local businesses. Drywall Dynamic and Tarlton and Sons are just two local businesses that have donated over 30 sheets of drywall and other materials, while San Luis Marble and Granite donated gran-



COURTESY PHOTO

The inside of the house shown here will be revamped to allow Rueck and her grandparents move around the house easier and accomodate her disabilities.

ite tabletop for the kitchen.

Regional Transit Authority has also donated their services to help volunteers and workers to and from the site. "It's an 80 mile roundtrip that they do for us twice a day," Steven Kilbert, the logistics project manager said. "It's saved us a lot of money in gas now that we won't have to try to transport all of these people everyday."

San Luis Obispo County assisted in the project by approving their building permits in a day, a process that otherwise could take up to a year, and waived the fees for the permits.

The group hopes to continue fundraising for the project. Until next Sunday, portions of participants' purchases at Jamba Juice on

Foothill Boulevard will be donated. Panda Express, also on Foothill Boulevard, will donate a portion of their profits on Wednesday from 2 p.m. until close. A benefit concert will be held at the Carlton Hotel in Atascadero Thursday night. Guests need to bring the flyers that can be printed out from the Poly House Web site to ensure that proceeds go to the philanthropy.

"It's surprising how many people were willing to help, considering the economic climate," kitchen project manager Erika Miller said. "One of the donors told me that the only way a project like this could happen was because of our 'Poly House magic' and that there's no other way something like this is tangible."

Soldier

continued from page 1

by the 55th Medical Company, a Reserve unit headquartered in Indianapolis. Two of the victims were officers assigned to the clinic and the three others were enlisted soldiers, Perkins said.

The Pentagon identified Cmdr. Charles Springle, 52, of Wilmington, North Carolina, as one of the victims of the shooting. The mother of Michael Edward Yates Jr. said two men from the Army came to her Federalburg, Maryland, home early Tuesday to tell say her 19-year-old son was killed.

A psychiatrist from Amarillo, Texas, Dr. Matthew Houseal, also was confirmed among the dead, according to the director of a Texas mental health clinic where Houseal worked. Bud Schertler said Houseal's wife told him Tuesday that her husband was among the dead.

In addition to the ongoing criminal investigation, Perkins said the U.S. command had opened a formal inquiry into the "general availability" of health care for American service personnel in Iraq, "specifically the policies and procedures surrounding behavioral health services."

He gave no further details and did not say how the investigation was being conducted.

The U.S. military has become increasingly concerned about mental health in the ranks following a steady rise in suicides — which the Army says have increased worldwide from at least 102 in 2006 to 140 last year. As of April, the Army had reported at least 48 suicides.

Thousands of other veterans are believed to suffer flashbacks, nightmares or fits of anger as they attempt to readjust to civilian life.

"One thing if we've learned from this war, we learned from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the previous wars, is not all injuries are physical," said Maj. Gen. Daniel P. Bolger, commander of Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

In Sherman, Wilburn Russell, 73, said he believes counselors in the military stress center "broke" his son before the shootings.

The younger Russell was six weeks away from completing his third tour in Iraq before Monday's shootings, the father told reporters Tuesday in front of the two-story suburban home his son is buying with his wife.

Wilburn Russell said his son was treated poorly at the military stress center. He said his son had e-mailed his wife, calling two recent days the worst in his life.

"I hate what that boy did," the

elder Russell said. "He thought it was justified. That's never a solution."

He said his son felt like "his life was over as far as he was concerned. He lived for the military."

John Russell began his active military service after a divorce and a series of minor criminal scrapes in his hometown, according to records in Grayson County, Texas.

His ex-wife obtained a temporary restraining order against him and an order withholding earnings for child support. In February 1993, a month after the divorce decree was issued, Russell was charged with misdemeanor assault but the matter was dropped, the records show.

A Pentagon official said Russell previously served two one-year tours of duty in Iraq, one from April 2003 and another beginning November 2005. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak on the record.

Russell, who had also served in the Balkans, was due to leave Iraq within weeks, he confirmed. During his current tour, Russell was assigned to a command in charge of security south of Baghdad.

To cope with the stress, the Army has set up clinics on most major bases in Iraq, staffing them with psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and other specialists.

Commanders, chaplains and others in leadership positions are also trained to watch for signs of stress and refer soldiers to mental health professionals if needed.

However, some officials believe soldiers are reluctant to take advantage of the facilities because of the stigma attached to counseling in a military culture that promotes mental and physical toughness.

Last November, Army Secretary Pete Geren said combating the stigma "is a challenge" throughout American society, especially in the Army "where we have a premium on strength, physically, mentally, emotionally."

However, Bolger said the command was encouraging soldiers to take advantage of clinics if they feel under stress.

"We've encouraged people to do self-referral," Bolger said. "We've actually encouraged them to say, 'hey, we're not going to hold this against you, we'd rather have you self-refer ... than have an incident that would be tragic.'"

Officials noted, however, that procedures had been followed in the Russell case, with the commander removing his weapon and referring him to mental health professionals.

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Obama at ASU: School's goals mesh with president's

Jacques Billeaud
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The abortion flap over President Barack Obama's invitation to speak at Notre Dame's graduation is getting all the attention.

But Arizona State — the mega-university where he'll speak at commencement Wednesday — says a lot more about his education goals.

Obama has called for all Americans to pursue at least one year of higher education, and places such as ASU will be at the forefront of efforts to expand college access.

In recent years, the sprawling university has felt more like a booming company than a college. There is a

new campus in downtown Phoenix and a newly expanded campus in nearby Mesa, along with dozens of new programs and hundreds of new faculty. As the state population has exploded, enrollment has surged by a third in eight years to 67,000 students, among the highest in the country. There are plans for 10,000 more within five years.

ASU's president, Michael Crow, insists his university can be both great and big — with both world-class research and mass-scale teaching. He calls the experiment the "New American University" and it's being closely watched nationwide.

"If there is a prototype school on track and designed to fulfill (Obama's)

mission, we are it," said Crow, who became president in 2002. "We're open, we're accessible, we're high quality — all those things that he talked about."

But there are also cautionary tales in ASU's experiences. Some aren't persuaded high quality and rapid expansion are compatible. And after years of blistering growth, ASU has been hit hard by the economic downturn — a reminder that Obama's target will be hopeless unless the economy starts growing again.

In his address to a joint session of Congress in February, Obama called for every American to pursue some form of education beyond high

see ASU, page 4



CHRIS CARLSON ASSOCIATED PRESS

This October 2006 photo shows the campus of Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. President Barack Obama is scheduled to speak at the school's commencement ceremony today.

State Briefs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A helicopter pilot who was videotaped receiving oral sex from a woman as he flew her around San Diego acted so recklessly that his license must be revoked, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

The actions of David Martz were so dangerous, the NTSB concluded in a written ruling, that they put the lives of everyone on his aircraft and on the ground below him in danger.

The agency's ruling, reached last week in Washington, D.C., was released Tuesday and upholds previous actions revoking Martz's pilot's license by the Federal Aviation Administration and an administrative law judge.

...

LAKEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Authorities say eight students at a Southern California high school have been hospitalized after taking pills that a student brought to school.

Los Angeles County Fire Inspector Steve Zermeno says a 14-year-old girl came to the nurse's office at Mayfair High School in Lakewood on Tuesday and complained of feeling lightheaded.

Sheriff's Lt. Bryan Proctor says the pills were identified as Ativan, an anti-anxiety medication.

Zermeno says the students were taken to hospitals as a precaution but did not have symptoms. It's unclear if the student who brought the pills was among those hospitalized.

...

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man accused of helping his wife flee the scene after their car hit two USC students in a crosswalk has been charged with leaving the scene of an accident.

Josue Luna was charged Tuesday with the felony and is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Police say Luna was a passenger in a car driven by his wife that ran a red light and struck the two students March 29 near the University of Southern California.

The accident killed 18-year-old Adrianna Bachan and injured 19-year-old Marcus Garfinkle.

Police say Luna pulled Garfinkle off the windshield after the crash and fled with his wife, Claudia Cabrera. Luna says the collision was an accident.

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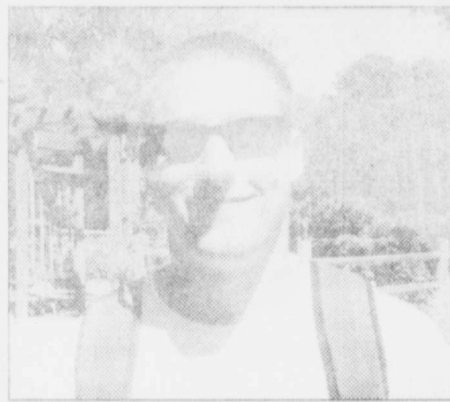


B.K. BAIRGASH ASSOCIATED PRESS

People from Pakistani Sikh community who fled their homes from the troubled Swat Valley wait for food after they take refuge at a temple in Hasanabdal near Islamabad, Pakistan Tuesday. Army helicopters dropped Pakistani commandos behind Taliban lines in the Swat Valley on Tuesday as part of a widening offensive against the militants, while U.S. missiles killed eight people in an attack on a suspected insurgent hide-out elsewhere in the northwest.

WORD ON THE STREET

"If you had your own reality show what would the premise and the name of the show be?"



"My show would be called, 'Go For the Gold' where athletes compete for an Olympic qualification."

-Daniel Schwager,
business administration junior

"Our reality show would be called, 'Four Sorority Girls in a Really Small Apartment,' recording the daily fights, drama and dishes of life."

-Ali Dugandzic,
English sophomore
and Megan Oliver,
recreation parks and
administration sophomore



"My gameshow would be a version of the game 'Assassins,' with hundreds of people marking (each other) with a pen."

-Jordan Yerkes,
business administration junior

"My show would be called 'Celebrity for a Day' to experience what it would be like to handle the pressures of being a celebrity through the season."

-Stephanie Hoover,
business administration
senior



COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY ASHELY CUILLO

ASU

continued from page 3

school. The United States has slipped to 10th in the world in its percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds with an associate degree or higher.

In Arizona, a board of regents study found the state must double its number of bachelor's degrees in the next 12 years just to meet the national average. Meanwhile, Hispanics — one-third of the population — enroll in college at less than half the rate of whites in the state.

Those challenges intensified this year when the bust of Phoenix's real estate-based economy curtailed tax collections and the state cut \$88 million of ASU's funding. The school had to cap enrollment, freeze building projects and lay off 900 administrators, support staff and part-time teachers. The student newspaper called Crow's "New American University" the "Neutered American University."

As the Legislature considered even bigger cuts for the upcoming year, Crow reluctantly raised the possibility of closing two campuses.

Such worst-case options now look unlikely, thanks partly to federal stimulus money and a tuition surcharge approved last month. Full-time professors have kept their jobs but are picking up extra classes and handling clerical tasks that used to fall to support staff. Enrollment is expected to rise slightly next fall. Crow calls the economy a "100-year storm" but insists it won't derail his long-term goals.

Even before the downturn, Crow had critics who thought ASU was trying to do too much.

"At times, it seems like the university wants to be all things to all people," said John Chance, an anthropology professor on the Tempe campus. "We want to admit as many students as we can, and we want a topflight research faculty. We want to do them all. I, for one, have personal doubts of whether that is possible."

For students, ASU offers endless choices, including more than 250 programs and majors. But personal attention is a challenge. The latest federal figures show ASU's six-year graduation rate is about 56 percent — about the national average.

Colin Miller, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering, lives in Tempe but likes to take classes at a campus 25 miles away.

"I don't mind driving this far for smaller classes," he said. But this year he had trouble getting into the courses he needed because they filled up so quickly.

In conjunction with Obama's visit, ASU is expanding a key financial aid program and renaming it for the president, who has also called for the United States to have the world's highest proportion of college graduates by 2020. The level of family income needed to qualify for ASU's program will go from \$25,000 to \$60,000, and the number of Arizona freshmen who will benefit next fall will more than triple.

Meanwhile, ASU has risen into the top tier (No. 121) in the U.S. News & World Report College Rankings. The school has lured dozens of big-name faculty and lavished resources on an honors college that has attracted 674 National Merit Scholars during the last four years.

Crow has also won over many faculty with his relentless defense of higher education as the Legislature considered budget cuts. In February, faculty senators from ASU's four campuses approved a resolution supporting him 68-4.

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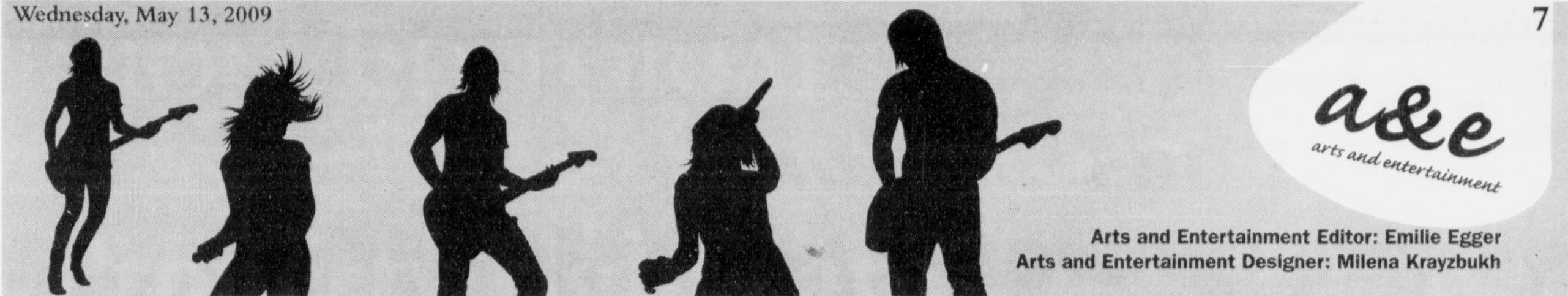
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Prom with a cause dance aims to aid Alzheimer's organization

Bridget Veltri
MUSTANG DAILY

Seniors and students will have a chance to experience prom another time around at the third annual Senior Prom on Sunday.

Unlike your average high school prom, this one raises money for a good cause, all of the proceeds from Senior Prom go to the Alzheimer's Association.

"We are trying to reach out to the community," business junior and Sigma Kappa sorority's vice president of philanthropy Heather Raymond said. "It's for anyone who wants to re-live their prom and help raise awareness."

In previous years, the prom was founded and organized by agriculture business senior Brandon Styles.

"It was kind of a lot work doing it by myself; I have always done a lot of community service work,"

he said. "I have always volunteered with senior citizens and Alzheimer's runs in my family."

This year Styles teamed up with the women of the Sigma Kappa sorority to put on the event. He says he hopes that the sorority will continue the event in future years

since he is graduating in spring.

Sigma Kappa seemed like the logical choice, since they already have a connection with the San Luis Obispo office of the nationwide organization.

"I wanted to do something that could be institutionalized at Cal

Poly after I leave, and their philanthropy is Alzheimer's Association," Styles said. "This is kind of the marriage I wanted to make with them (Sigma Kappa), so they could carry this on in years to come."

According to Raymond, the sorority is likely to continue to plan

the event in the future.

"We have never put on an event like this before and it has been really fun," she said. "We have had a 'prom planning' committee that

see Prom, page 6

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comic book column

Retcon has staying power

I think it's time we have a little chat about my favorite mainstream superhero: Green Lantern.

Before we delve into the realm of Hal Jordan, I have to say a few words about a recent comic book method. In more officious circles, the term is known as "retcon." For all you laymen out there, the term is short for "retroactive continuity."

In essence, it is a process by which a comic book writer changes the past about a superhero, from something small, like when they were born, to something huge, such as their motivation for becoming a superhero.

In theory, retcons could be a good thing. They could modernize an already established character, thereby offering new and better stories to be written. And they give nerds like me a multitude of opportunities to read awesome comic books.

However, the process is not always smooth. There are countless examples, but I'd say that DC is especially guilty of really awful retcons. Just look at "Infinite Crisis," so bad.

Anyway, back to Green Lantern. Hal Jordan, the original Green Lantern, has been my favorite superhero since I was a little kid. Back then, I'm sure I thought he was awesome solely for the fact that he wore green, and made green things appear with his ring because yes, green is my favorite color.

As I grew up, I started to realize that this guy was much cooler than the fact that he wears green. Hal Jordan is part of a universe galactic police force known as the Green Lantern Corps. Each of the many corps members polices a section of the universe, usually encompassing their own home world.

Their powers all come from a very special technology, their

power rings. Powered by their own willpower and their ability to overcome fear, each Green Lantern Corps member can create "constructs" with their ring. Basically, with their willpower, each member can create anything they want with their ring, from a sword or shield around their body, to more elaborate devices like a gun. The only limit is their own cleverness.

You would understand that, to my dismay, Hal Jordan was eventually killed off in the early '90s. Basically, Hal Jordan went AWOL and killed pretty much all of the Green Lantern Corps, and eventually was brought down himself. The DC powers that be brought in a new Green Lantern, Kyle Rayner, who was a bit more hip for the times, but was never as cool as his predecessor.

Originally, each Green Lantern had a laughably terrible weak-

COMIC BOOK RELIEF



BY JON MONTEITH

PRODUCED BY MUSTANG DAILY

COURTESY PHOTO



ness: the color yellow. In the 1960s, many superheroes had some awful weaknesses, but for the times they weren't too awful. However, as time progressed, writers have retconned this pretty lame weakness as being an impurity in the central power battery where all members recharge their rings. But I don't want to bore you with the details.

More recently with the series "Green Lantern: Rebirth," Hal Jordan has finally come back from the dead. Now I am not usually one to buy into these kinds of stories, where it almost

seems like writers are dying for comic book sales, but it was actually pretty awesome. Not to mention they have brought back my favorite superhero ever.

So here we are in 2009, and the Green Lantern series is really getting awesome. It is written by Geoff Johns who is in my opinion the best mainstream comic book writer in the business.

In the summer of 2007, Johns started the "Sinestro Corps War" series, which was pretty epic, and set the stage for this summer's event, "In Blackest Night." Oh man, my nerd senses are tingling.

I really think you should check out this series because it is frickin' sweet. I'd say start with "Green Lantern: Rebirth," but if you are too impatient, the "Sinestro Corps War" trades are a good start as well.

Jon Monteith is a history senior and Mustang Daily's comic book columnist.

Prom

continued from page 5

has been working on the event since January and a lot of them are freshmen."

Styles also noted that the prom is an opportunity for both students and seniors to "bridge a generational gap" and get to know each other in spite of a large age difference.

"It is a place where seniors and students can get together, dance and have a type of social interaction that they wouldn't normally have," he said. "The seniors that I have worked with have always really enjoyed that kind of company because it is an interaction that they aren't used to in their everyday."

No one will be spiking the punch at this prom. Instead, complementary appetizers and beverages, including wine and champagne, will be available to all guests.

Keeping with its philanthropic theme, the event will also feature a silent and live auction featuring items from businesses all over the county. The planning committee hopes that they will be able to raise as much money for seniors as in year's past.

"It's all about the seniors," Styles said. "Last year's auction raised roughly \$9,000 and roughly 80 businesses donated."

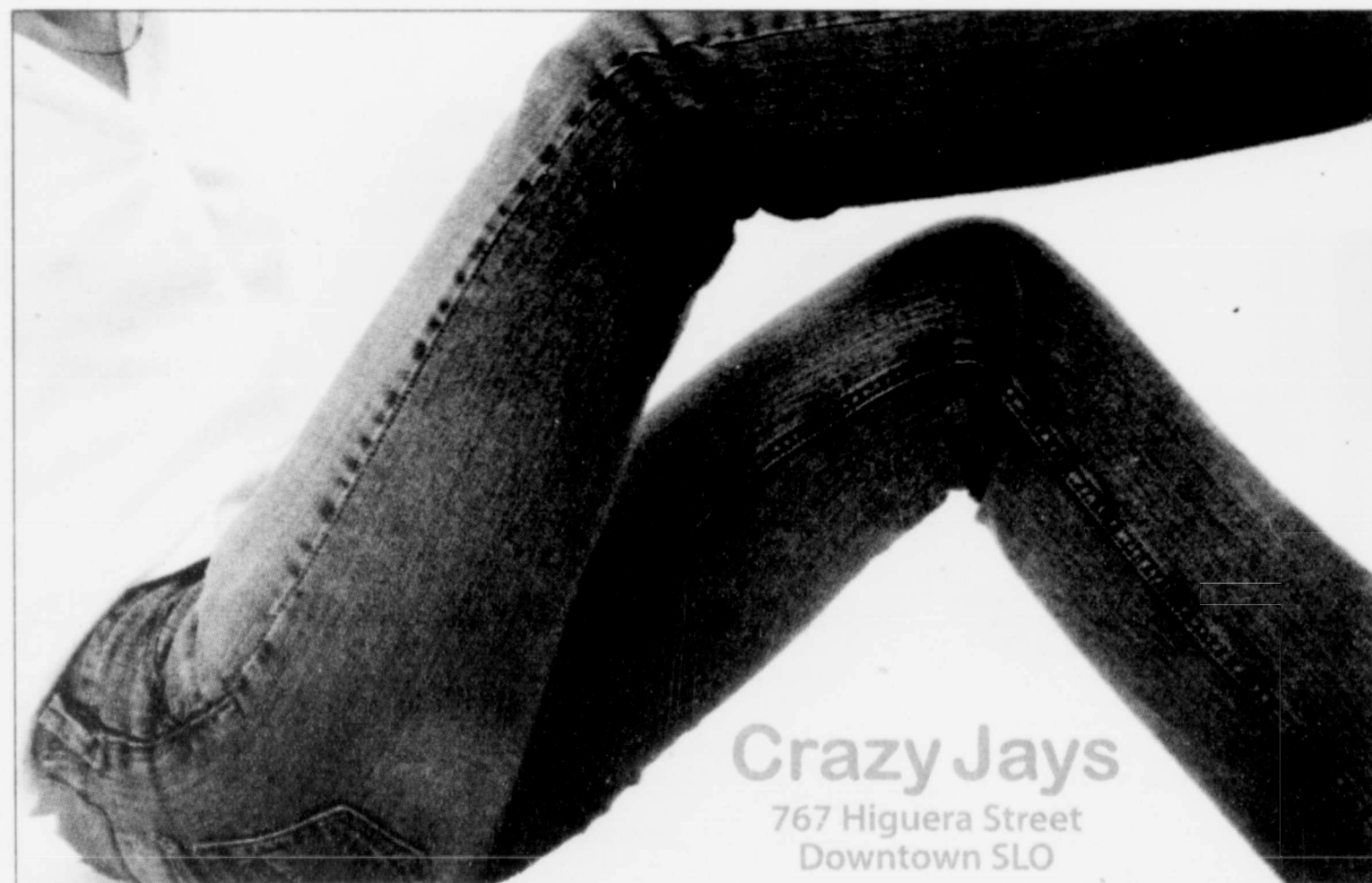
Although most proms have a DJ, this one will feature live music from band Thigh High Thumpers. A dance teacher will even be on hand to help the out of practice crowd members brush up on their moves.

"The seniors get dressed up to the nines and get so excited," Styles said. "It's a crack up because they are so in to it, they are going to prom."

And no prom would be complete without a king and queen.

"We have a prom queen and king," Styles said. "It is usually the oldest attending couple that wins."

This year's event is being held at the Manse on Marsh from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for seniors and students and are available at the door and in advance at the student community services office on campus.



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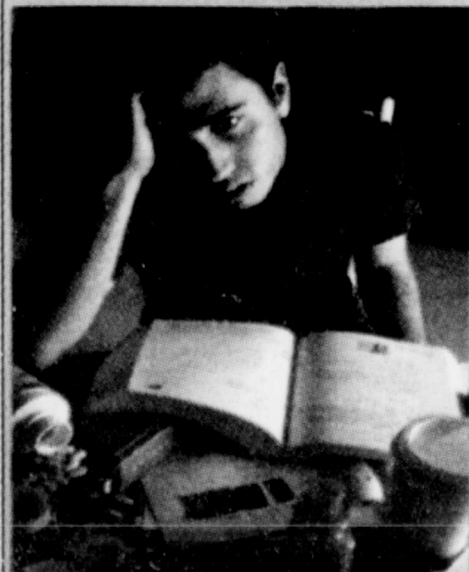
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Big name comic brings

BIG BRAND

comedy to Cal Poly

Zach Lantz

MUSTANG DAILY

World famous and award-winning comic Ralphie May brings his highly-anticipated comedic performance to Chumash Auditorium tonight.

"I definitely think that this will be one of our more higher attended comedians of the year," Associated Students Inc. Program Coordinator Michelle Curro said.

May, who got his big break as runner-up for "Last Comic Standing" in 2004, is possibly the most accomplished performer to ever come to Cal Poly. May has produced three hour-long Comedy Central specials including Girth of a Nation, Prime Cut and Austin-tatious.

The buzz around campus has been big leading up to today and that excitement is felt by the staff who put it together.

"(We wanted) name recognition that would be seen throughout campus" recreation administration junior and ASI Special Events Coordinator Dana Matteson said. "I feel like the event is going to be a success."

The selection process for picking a comic is a long one and the staff here at Cal Poly went through a lot of research in terms of watching YouTube, Saturday Night Live and late night talk shows.

"We have a group of students that get together every quarter...and their sole job is to do research on up and coming entertainment that they feel would be a

good fit for Cal Poly students," Curro said. "It's completely student driven."

The staff of ASI started doing research on May and other possible comics in January. "They go out and immerse themselves in pop culture by talking to students, doing surveys and other events," Curro said.

After the research is done, the student-led team submits their top selections for artists they want to see come perform. May and Justin Blue are the two comics that were approved. Both will be performing this month.

May's southern drawl adds to his observational style of comedy, which covers pop culture issues and sometimes is controversial. His first CD "Just Correct" went platinum in 2004 as May went on a one-man mission not to be "politically correct."

The staff that invited May is aware of the possible offensive nature of his jokes and urges students to research him before coming tonight.

"I think every comedian has their niche as far as what their jokes are in reference too," Curro said referencing May's no holds barred comedic style.

"I always suggest looking (the comedian) up on YouTube and doing a little bit of research for yourself to see if this is a type of comedian that you find funny."

Still, she seemed sure that students would show up for the event.

"With all the events (that we put on), you can't appease (everyone)," Matteson said. "People can make their own decisions whether (or not) to come to the event."

Ralphie May performs tonight at 8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium. Blue, who was the winner NBC's season four of Last Comic Standing will also perform there on Thursday, May 21.

Both performances are open to the public and free with a PolyCard. Admission is \$10 without.



6 landscape paintings stolen from Dutch museum

Arthur Max

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Thieves pried open the emergency door of a small Dutch museum with an iron bar—and made off with six 17th- and 19th-century landscape paintings — the second major art heist in 10 days in the Netherlands.

The break-in at 3 a.m. Monday set off an alarm that summoned police within minutes but the burglars already had fled, leaving behind two paintings that they dropped in their haste and damaged, Mark de Kok, a spokesman for the city of IJsselstein, said Tuesday.

The paintings included three by Jan van Goyen, a prolific contemporary of Rembrandt who died in 1656. The others were a 17th century painting by Pieter de Nelyn and 19th-century pieces by Willem Roelofs and Adrianus van Everdingen. The damaged works were by Salomon van Ruysdael

and Salomon Rombouts.

The paintings, on loan from the Dutch government, were mostly river scenes set in the flat countryside typical of northern Holland, a specialty of the IJsselstein City Museum. The town is a suburb of Utrecht.

Police seized security cameras that may have captured the burglary on video, de Kok said. The museum will remain closed until Thursday while the investigation continues.

De Kok declined to put a value on the paintings, saying that could invite ransom demands from the burglars. But a Van Goyen was sold by Christie's in London six months ago for more than \$126,000.

The theft occurred 10 days after an armed robbery of two paintings by Salvador Dali and Tamara de Lempicka from the Scheringa Museum for Realism in Spanbroek, a small town in northwest Holland.

Security expert Ton Cremers said the two thefts were carried out

differently, indicating no reason to connect them. The last major museum heist in the Netherlands was six years ago, he said.

"It's just embarrassing," said Cremers, of Museum Security Network, a private company that advises museums on security.

He said the thefts reflected poor security at smaller institutions, where alarm systems usually are inside display rooms rather than outside the building where thieves would first make contact.

The Netherlands, with 16 million people, has more than 1,000 museums visited by about 30 million people a year.

Even small museums have high quality works from the abundant collection of Dutch masters owned by the government, which loans them out.

Larger museums are usually well protected, but even they are vulnerable. In 2002, two paintings by Vincent van Gogh were stolen from the Amsterdam museum



CITY MUSEUM IJSSELSTEIN ASSOCIATED PRESS

The painting "River view with passengers in a carriage" by Salomon Jacobsz. van Ruysdael (above) were stolen from City Museum IJsselstein, Netherlands on Tuesday.

named for the 19th century Dutch artist. The thieves were later caught but the paintings were never recovered.

The largest theft in the country took place in 1988 when three

Van Goghs, with an estimated value of up to \$90 million, were stolen from the Kroeller-Mueller Museum in a park in the eastern Netherlands. Police later recovered all three paintings.

MUSTANG DAILY

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Graphic Arts Building, Suite 226
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(805) 756-1796 **editorial**
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(805) 756-6784 **fax**
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editors & staff

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managing editor Giana Magnoli
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Mustang Daily

"My head's a musical and sometimes it just
kind of leaks out."

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Editor in chief: Marlice van Romburgh
Managing Editor: Giana Magnoli

mustangdaily@gmail.com

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8

Property rights are imperative to free speech

Of all the rights embraced by Americans, free speech is probably one of the most sacrosanct and revered. Today I have the rude and unpleasant task of informing you that such a reverence is misplaced. For there is no such thing as free speech.

Not in the absence of private property that is. Property rights are the means by which speech is secured and thus liberated. In the absence of property rights, free speech is greatly imperiled.

It's long been a source of amusement and annoyance to me that libertarians are so often derided for their emphasis on property rights as though their bias makes them carnal, materialistic creatures and perhaps most cruelly, "closet Republicans." Leftists (it would be a tragic misuse of language to call them liberals) appear to believe that they are special creatures graced with the capacity to sneer at the petty and elemental thing that is property rights while endlessly praising the more intangible rights, like freedom of speech.

Given this climate of debate where the mentioning of property rights is seen as a crass and unwelcome faux pas, it is quite a natural regression for society to steadily decline into endless bickering about what can and can't be said.

Sadly, this decline is nowhere more evident than at the center stage of academics, the university. At Cal Poly, as at other universities, the eggheads are increasingly devoted, not to curing cancer or AIDS, but to the exciting new task of creating exhaustive, impressive, and thoroughly restrictive speech codes. CARE-Net, the new Cal Poly speech police thrust into existence by the incident involving a noose at the Crops House, is a clear indicator of the time and resources that are being devoted to this new mission.

Despite the endless debate that certain types of speech and expression provokes, the vital consideration that remains woefully neglected is not so much what one says but where one says it.

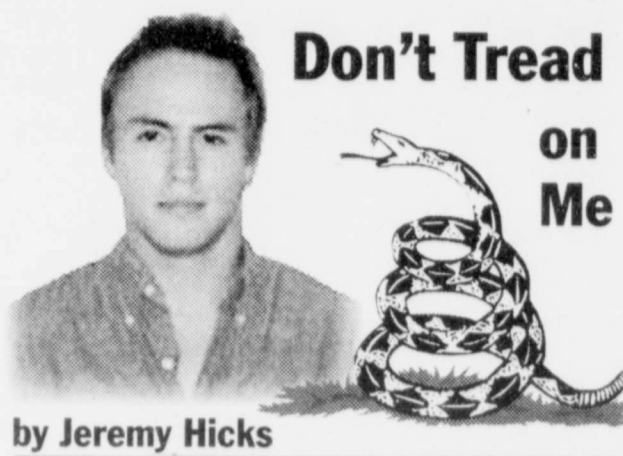
The latter question recognizes the importance of property rights and preserves free speech to its fullest extent while confining it to the limitations imposed by property ownership. The former leads inevitably to restrictive and controlled speech, with the controller usually being the government.

The strongest defense of free speech, especially unpopular or unusual speech, is the right to property, the right to rent a hall and give a talk, rent a space of airtime on a television or radio show or a segment of a newspaper. When such rights to property are absent, the ramifications for free speech are devastating. There is a reason that the U.S. has been considered a bastion of freedom and expression for so long.

It is not because Americans are particularly tolerant by nature. Most Europeans are much more so. But our society over the last 200 years has been much freer because there is a respect and acknowledgement for this idea that a person's property is hallowed and inviolable. In this climate, speech, along with all other forms of expression, is granted a special security that is simply impossible absent property rights.

Consider the alternative, which is usually public property. Free speech on public property is really an illusion given that the term "public property" is practically a pseudonym for government property and the government always seeks to control what it claims ownership to.

Take the roads. They are "public" but essentially



by Jeremy Hicks

controlled by the government, from the speed limits to the type of asphalt to the width of the lanes. Or consider Cal Poly, where last year during the 2008 election, the Students for Obama group attracted some undesired attention to themselves for chalking their candidate's slogans all over campus. Unfortunately for the club, the fun did not last and they were sternly ordered by university officials to cease and, in so many words, clean up their scrawled messes. The club protested, citing a right to free speech which they believed was being unduly restricted.

Naturally, the club's free speech was being limited because there really is no such thing as free speech in the public sphere; it is only as free as the government (or in this case, the Cal Poly administration) allows.

In a free society, there is a nearly unlimited ability to chalk as many presidential slogans as one wishes in one's own house, that is, on one's own property.

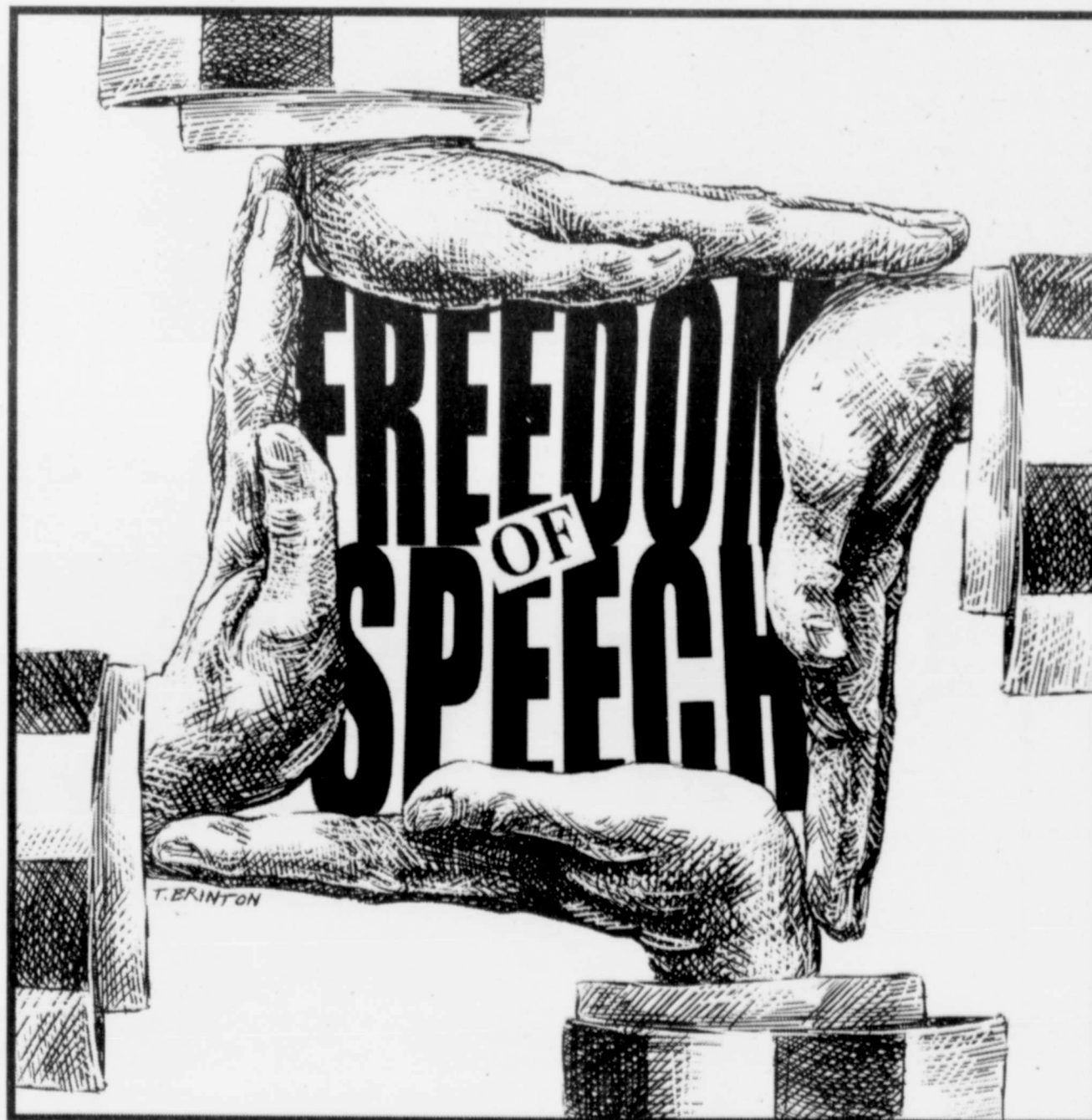
This is the reason libertarians place such an emphasis on private property. It is the one right that makes all the other rights possible. Without private property, free speech is limited to whatever the government considers acceptable. This is a frightening possibility, no matter what one's political party.

Speaking of free speech, the Mustang Daily will be looking for someone to take over as the libertarian columnist for next year. This year I have had the honor of establishing a precedence that even small and neglected schools of thought deserve a role in the public forum. It has been a distinct pleasure to write in this capacity and I sincerely hope that the vacated space which I leave at the end of this year will be replaced by someone who can improve upon my humble beginnings.

I might also add that, despite my clumsiness and general inadequacies as a writer, this column has been one of the most well-read columns this year. I believe this speaks to the importance and appeal of the ideals and applications of the libertarian school of thought which, though almost boringly commonsensical, are decidedly unconventional and radical given the primitive and backward setting in which we find ourselves.

This is an open casting call to any writers that might be up to the challenge. I encourage you to apply to be a columnist when the Mustang Daily announces next year's columnist vacancies.

Jeremy Hicks is a 2008 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarian Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.



TIM BRINTON NEWSART

have something to say?

let us hear it. 250 words or less.

mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

Time served, time to play again

Baseball isn't the only sport having problems dealing with employee character issues. Football has its share of problems that need addressing this off-season as well. One in particular is of great concern as it has the attention of everyone — not just football fans.

It wasn't more than two years ago that Atlanta Falcons' superstar quarterback Michael Vick was sentenced to 23-month prison sentence after pleading guilty for funding and operating a dogfighting arena.

It wasn't more than two years ago that dog lovers across this nation were calling for the maximum punishment for Vick. Picket signs and protests surrounded the courtroom. The man, who was once the face of football, scarred his name and defaced the game along with it. He went from fan favorite to public enemy number one.

Vick has served nearly 22 months of his sentence that ends June 20. He will be released to spend the remainder of his sentence under home confinement starting May 20. As his release date creeps closer, a tough decision is weighing in the back of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's mind.

It's serious. The NFL has a reputation to uphold in society, but it also has a responsibility to do what is fair for the player. And no matter what decision Goodell makes, it is guaranteed to be the wrong one.

During a panel discussion at Washington and Lee University, Goodell said that Vick would have to show "genuine remorse" for what he has done in order to return to the NFL.

So, say Goodell can discern "genuine remorse" and does decide that he will reinstate Vick. What then? A daily mob in front of the arena that he plays in every Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Saturday (how many days a week do they play again?)?

In the eyes of some people, nothing he ever does will ever be good enough. He could wear a PETA shirt everywhere he goes. He could walk around with a chihuahua, dressed in its favorite outfit. He could be Paul after Saul and people will still see the persecutor.

In an interview with Fox Sports, retired defensive lineman Michael Strahan said that Vick "could go out and do some of the greatest things mankind has ever seen and I still don't know if it would be good enough for people not to protest his getting a job in the NFL."

This is the issue that Goodell is confronted with this summer. What should he do?

Vick is just 28 years old. He is a young man. Young

men make mistakes don't they?

He's young enough to make a mistake, but old enough to realize how immature and ridiculous that mistake was. He's immature enough to not realize exactly what he was doing at the time, yet mature enough to reflect and realize how disgusting it was. He's weak enough to be influenced by the wrong people, but strong enough to realize that he needs to disassociate himself from that crowd and to live up to better standards.

Add onto that a couple years in prison and I think he's got the point. Now it's just a matter of seeing if people really can change.

It seems he's taking the right steps. More importantly, he's taking the right steps in the peripheral of the public (which is commendable, since being out of sight is nearly impossible these days).

It was reported earlier this week that former NFL coach Tony Dungy, who retired to dedicate

his life to prison ministry, met with Vick.

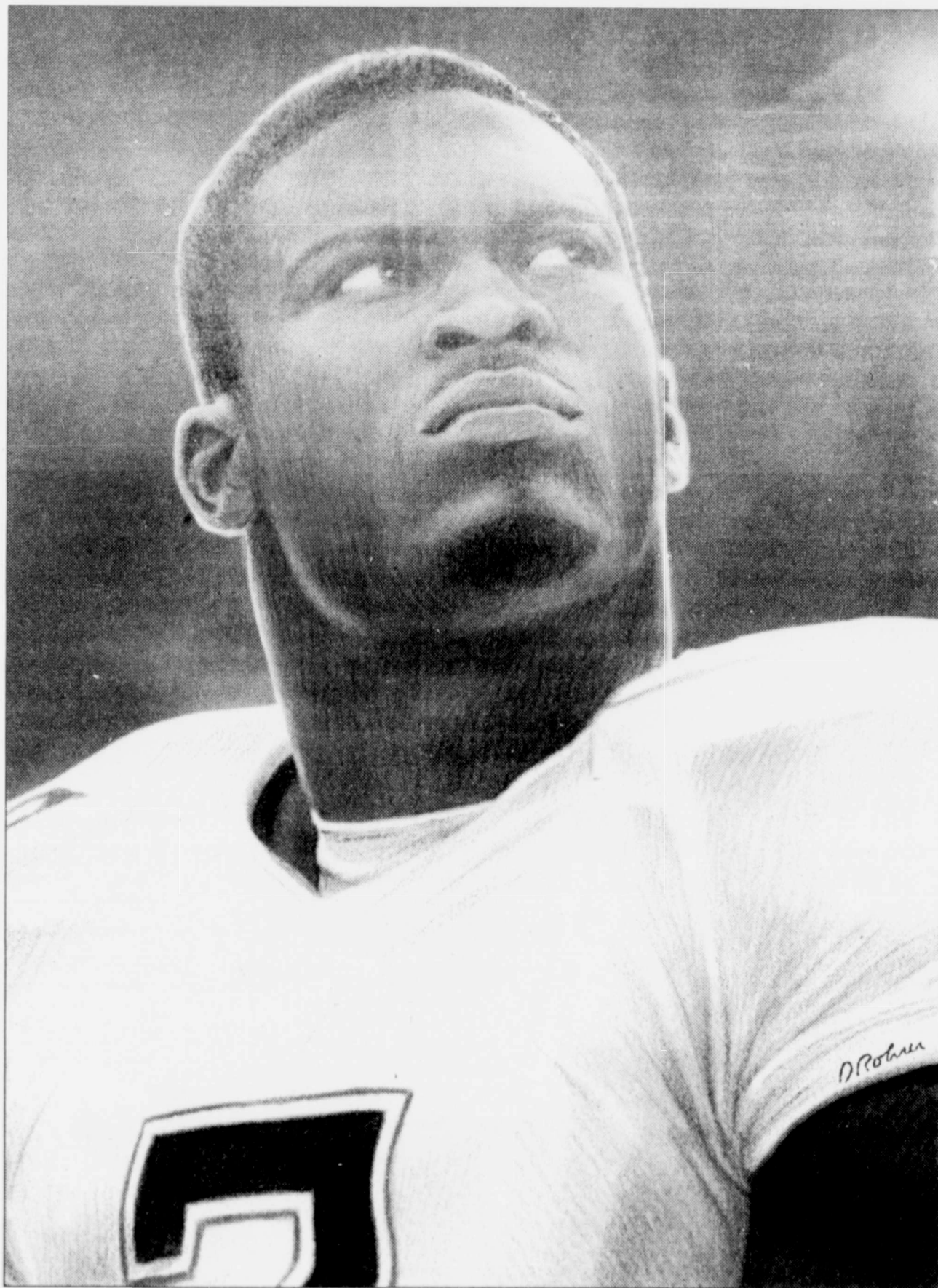
Dungy explained his heart for prisoners in an interview with Tampa Tribune reporter Martin Fenelly.

"When you talk to prisoners, you talk about what's important, what you draw your identity from. We're obsessed with winning, and here are guys who most people think aren't winners. Our tendency is to say, 'if you're not a winner, you're nothing.' I want to tell guys you can be something."

No word has come out yet to the nature of their meeting, but it's safe to say it was a conversation about life after

(Vick) could go out and do some of the greatest things mankind has ever seen and I still don't know if it would be good enough for people not to protest his getting a job in the NFL.

— Michael Strahan
Retired NFL player



DEAN ROHRER NEWSART

prison, about rebuilding his life and finding his purpose.

This meeting with Dungy can only make the decision easier for the commissioner.

What should Goodell do?

Reinstate Vick and let him play. Let him make a statement. Let him be the great comeback story that only he can be. Let him be an inspiration for others who are sitting at rock bottom, looking for a way out.

Clinton McGue is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily sports reporter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mustang Daily made right decision not to endorse a candidate

Dear Mustang Daily,

I applaud your decision to remain neutral when it came to endorsing a candidate. Contrary to Monday's Letter to the Editor, your decision to not back any of this year's contenders did not reflect badly upon our student population. It is not the job of the media to endorse candidates, only to inform the public of the options available to them. Failing to do that properly, which includes giving one potential ASI president more coverage than the rest, is partisan and cannot truly reflect the opinions of the student body at large.

Mercedes Rodriguez
journalism freshman

We're finally "there"

In response to Mary Vause's letter to the editor: You know what? Fine. You win. I'm all for allowing underrepresented groups to have a voice within the Mustang Daily. In practice, the policy allows us to have a newspaper with a colorful writing staff that tackle a wide range of often overlooked social and political issues. Such reasoning has given us the privilege to enjoy two weekly libertarian columns, a comicbook column, a "hipster" column, and now a bisexual sex column. So, congratulations, Jenny Ray: you and your bisexual ilk now share ranks with Ron Paul supporters and would-be Pitchfork reviewers. Nevermind that Prop 8 passed: we're finally "there."

Ryan Moriarty
physics senior

find out what our
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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



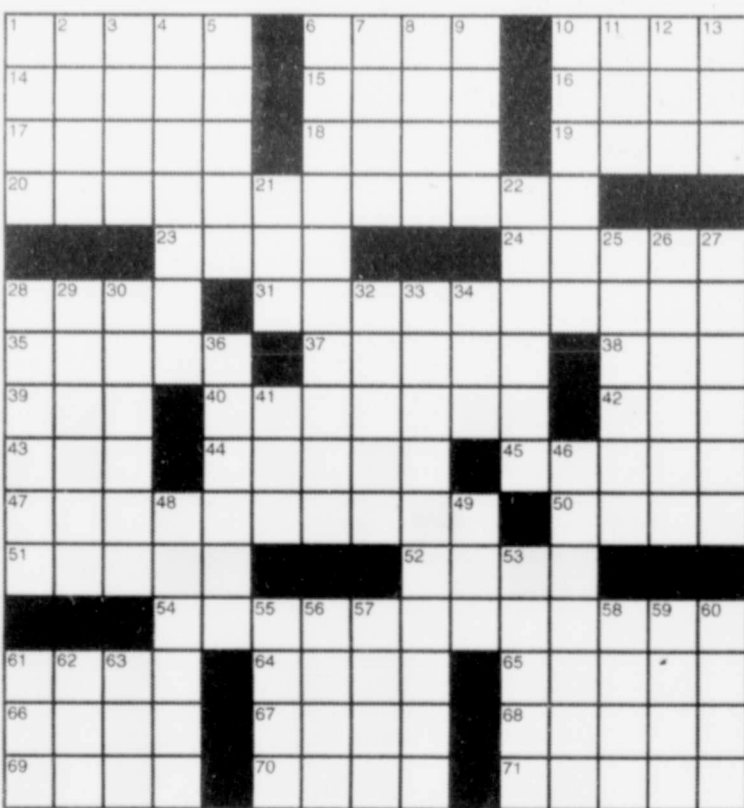
...and that's how one simple logic proof turned
Obi-Wan to the Dark Side.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0408

- Across**
- Venetian who explored for England in the 15th century
 - Paints gently
 - Mattress filler during a recession, maybe
 - Last Oldsmobile car
 - Palindromic magazine name
 - "A pity"
 - Tailless Old World mammal
 - Land of the descendants of 67-Across
 - "Step right up!"
 - An Olympic swimmer needs a big one
 - 50+ org.
 - Royal family
 - Less than 1%
 - It may be over a window
 - Tricks
 - Not so common
 - The Greatest
 - Son of, in Arab names
 - Akihito's wife, e.g.
 - Rebelling Turner
 - ___ pooped to pop
 - Shire of "Rocky"
 - Treaty signing
 - Sound practical judgment
 - After 2004, the only way to buy a 14-Across
 - Slander
 - Modern way to put out an album
 - Fateful event for the Titanic
 - Diamond group
 - Runner in Pamplona
 - Like spoken n's
 - It turns a hundred into a thousand
 - Jacob's twin
 - Makes like the Cheshire Cat
- Down**
- Give a ring
 - Baseball's Felipe or Jesus
 - Capital of Switzerland
 - Art form that commonly depicts a swan
 - Puccini opera
 - Group with the 1968 hit "Hush"
 - 2006 Emmy winner for "The West Wing"
 - Congressional Black Caucus, e.g.
 - Rest stop sight
 - Echo location
 - Stout, e.g.
 - "Harlem Nocturne" instrument
 - 1940s-'50s White House inits.
 - Part of a circle
 - Common companion of a dry throat
 - Astronomical discovery of 1781
 - Grief relief
 - Ready to be typeset
 - Paul Revere and others
 - Big bang
 - Turn a deaf ear to



Puzzle by Joey Weissbrodt

- ___ to go
- Spying against one's own country, say
- He ran to succeed 13-Down: Abbr.
- Et ___
- More, on Mallorca
- Author Kipling
- Biblical strongman
- Part of S.A.S.E.: Abbr.
- Line dance
- Hot pair
- A teaspoonful, maybe
- Reconstruction and the Roaring Twenties
- Indian's home
- Club familiars
- End of a warning
- Gun produced by Israel Military Industries
- La Méditerranée, e.g.
- Whiz

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NBA

continued from page 11

it happens.

As far as anyone knows it's not predetermined. But from the All-Star break on it sure has seemed preordained.

Kobe versus LeBron. Could it ever be anything else?

No, and nothing that has transpired so far in these playoffs suggests that we won't get the finals matchup that everyone outside of a few selected cities wants. That includes the little hiccup the Lakers suffered in Houston when Bryant and his teammates found out Yao Ming was gone and simply didn't show up to play on Mother's Day.

That was so embarrassing that the Zen Master himself, Phil Jackson, uttered a naughty word on national television. But Jackson hasn't coached teams to nine NBA titles by not having them ready when it really matters, and there's little reason to think that injury-depleted Houston or even a team on a roll like the Nuggets will derail the Lakers early.

That's especially true when Bryant can still take over at will late in games no matter how befuddled his teammates sometimes seem to be.

So, of course, can James. But he hasn't needed to as Cleveland swept its first two series, winning all eight games and winning them all by double digit margins. The Cavaliers are all business, a team on a mission marching its way to the inevitable showdown against Bry-

ant and the Lakers.

They barely traded a few high fives after dispatching the Atlanta Hawks in the series final Monday night, taking their cue from their 24-year-old leader who truly does play like a man among boys.

"Why should we celebrate?" James said. "We're playing for a championship. An advance is an advance. It doesn't matter if you win in four games or you win Game 7. We're happy that we're playing great basketball ... but we're not taking for granted what we're doing right now."

While Stern and company have to be salivating over a Lakers-Cavs finals, they have to be happy with the undercard so far. TV ratings have been up and there have been some good subplots from the overtime excitement in Boston and Chicago to Cuban's buffoonery in Dallas.

But it's all little more than filler before the main event begins.

Officially it will be the Cavs against the Lakers, but anyone who pays any attention to the star hierarchy of basketball knows it's much bigger than that.

Last year's MVP against this year's MVP. One of the greatest players of his time versus a player who someday could become the greatest of all time.

The Nike marketing machine will kick into overdrive. Beautiful people will be at courtside, even in Cleveland.

And network television will suddenly become relevant once again.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press

Tillman

continued from page 11

award citation for their speeches. In 2007, the Army overruled a Pen-

tagon recommendation that McChrystal be held accountable for his "misleading" actions.

In a book published last year, Mary Tillman accused McChrystal of helping create the false story line that she said "diminished Pat's true

actions."

Her one-sentence e-mail to the AP on Tuesday said: "It is imperative that Lt. General McChrystal be scrutinized carefully during the Senate hearings."

Last year, however, the Senate unanimously approved promoting McChrystal from a two-star general to a three-star general as director of the Pentagon's Joint Staff.

Similarly, this time around, Senate Armed Services Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., "does not foresee any problems with Gen. McChrystal's confirmation" with the committee, a Levin aide said Tuesday.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the committee's top Republican, backs the decision to change leadership in Afghanistan and will support McChrystal's nomination, said Brooke Buchanan, a McCain spokeswoman.

McCain was highly critical of the Army's handling of the Tillman investigation, and in April 2007 he called the service's actions "inexcusable and unconscionable."



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Former NFL star and Army Ranger Pat Tillman, shown above, was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan in 2004.

su|do|ku TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

5	1	2	6	7	9	4	3	8
6	4	9	2	8	3	5	7	1
3	7	8	1	5	4	9	2	6
9	6	5	8	4	7	2	1	3
7	3	1	9	6	2	8	4	5
2	8	4	3	1	5	7	6	9
8	2	7	5	3	6	1	9	4
1	9	6	4	2	8	3	5	7
4	5	3	7	9	1	6	8	2

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS

BASEBALL

VS. SANTA CLARA

MONDAY, MAY 18, 6:00PM

BAGGETT STADIUM

Adam Melker
Claremont, CA

Adam Buschini
San Ramon, CA

BASEBALL

VS. UC RIVERSIDE

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 6:00PM

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 6:00PM

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1:00PM*

BAGGETT STADIUM

*Jersey Day and Senior Day -

All youth, 13 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game and the Mustang Senior class will be honored prior to the game!

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

Sports psychology helping Cal Poly athletes

Clinton McGue

MUSTANG DAILY

Hall of fame catcher Yogi Berra said it best, "90 percent of the game is mental, the other half is physical."

Well, maybe he didn't say it best, but the meaning is understood. Contradictory to popular belief, physical ability is trumped by a player's intelligence, confidence and attitude in the world of sports.

That's why sports psychologists are in high demand among athletes playing at the collegiate and professional levels. Jeff Troesch is one of them and has been working in close quarters with Cal Poly coaches and athletes for the past five years.

He has worked with every Mustang team, with the exception of football, helping student athletes balance life on and off the field. He advises them on how to develop a plan and maintain a competitive edge while balancing academic, social and family life.

Generally speaking, the main goal for a sports psychologist is to help players maintain an even keel and have them hone in on specific skills that produce high levels of confidence and low levels of anxiety, Troesch said.

"I want them to really focus on developing

their skills and getting better as an athlete, rather than focusing on the outcomes," Troesch explained. "If they worry about the outcome, they are distracted from being competitive."

Troesch is currently working with the baseball and softball teams at Cal Poly. He also works with teams from UC Berkeley and UC Los Angeles. Despite living away from most of his work, he keeps busy through his phone.

He has many high-profile athletes that come to him for advice. He even works with athletes that he has

never met in person.

"There are some clients that I've worked with and have no idea what they look like," Troesch said. "For the most part though, it's helpful for me to be on site, in the dugout or on the sideline."

On site is how Cal Poly's baseball head coach Larry Lee likes it. Troesch can be seen in the dugout of either the softball or baseball team during this time of year, talking with players after games and giving his two cents.

"As a coach I tend to work on the physical aspect of the sport," Lee said of Troesch's importance to the team. "But Jeff can address the mental part that the coaching staff neglects."

According to Lee, sports psychologists are especially important in adjusting a baseball player's mindset when playing the game.

"Baseball's a game of failure," Lee explained. "So, helping players respond positively is very helpful."

Troesch's services extend beyond the just the player's needs. He also helps the coaches to connect with their team based on the different personalities that make it up and can act as an advisor or confidant. In essence, he's a liaison between the two parties.

"Players open up more to someone on the outside than someone on the inside," Lee said.

"We don't know everything that is going on in (our players') lives and what they are dealing with. And as the head coach I'm usually the last to know."

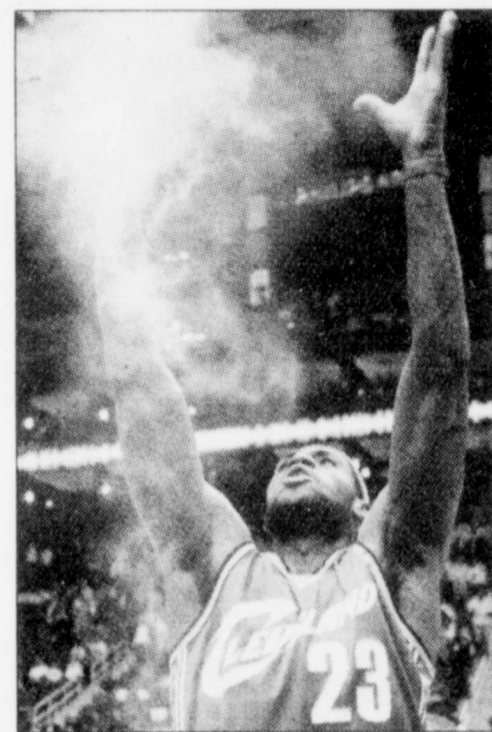
Troesch originally became interested in the profession after working as a public relations specialist for the Seattle Supersonics. During his time spent there, he realized there was a dire need for sports psychology in the professional arena. So he went back to school to work on his graduate degree at Washington State University, where he got his first true taste while working with athletes at the university.

Since then he has worked as for the NBA as a part of the psychological team and provided his services for some accomplished franchises in the MLB such as the Seattle Mariners and Detroit Tigers. He also works on an individual basis with some high-profile athletes.

Despite working with teams and players all over the nation, Troesch has found a home in San Luis Obispo. In what may not seem like an ideal location for a person in his profession, Troesch would rather sacrifice face time with his clients than face time with his family.

"It was a family decision," he explained. "This is a great place to raise my kids and I can do what I do from anywhere."

Kobe vs LeBron: NBA finals seem to be preordained



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is it a foregone conclusion that we will see LeBron James, shown above, in the NBA Finals against the Los Angeles Lakers?

Tim Dahlberg

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Long before anyone ever heard of Tim Donaghy there was always a nagging suspicion among casual fans that the fix was on in the NBA playoffs. To be sure, in a league when almost every foul can be contested and almost every game is decided in the final two minutes, there is always plenty for conspiracy theorists to ponder.

David Stern knows that, which is why the league was so quick to issue a statement the other night admitting that its referees blew a crucial foul in the final seconds that might have cost the Dallas Mavericks their best shot at the Denver Nuggets.

No sense letting these things simmer, not that it helped the Mavericks any. Dirk Nowitzki wasn't accepting any apologies and neither was owner Mark Cuban, who may be the real Big Baby of these playoffs.

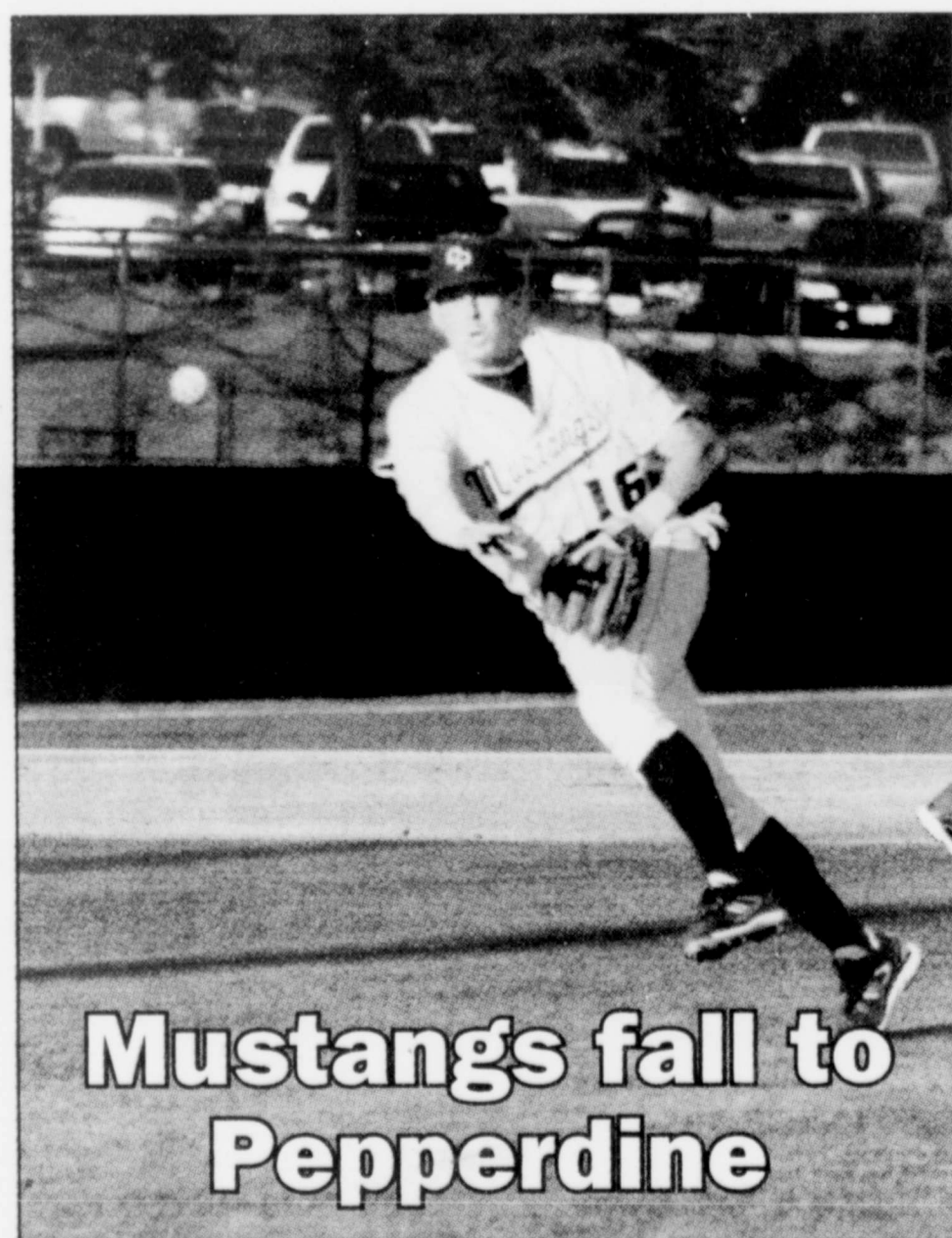
There's a lot of things you can get away with when you're a billionaire and own an NBA team. But taunting an opposing player's mother as Cuban did to Kenyon Martin's mom after the end of Game 3 might be the one line you don't want to cross.

In the end, though, it's not likely to matter much. Dallas isn't going to go to the finals anyway, and the Nuggets would also be wise not to begin printing tickets for games that begin in June.

The Celtics are winning games they shouldn't, but they should be realists, too. And the Rockets and Magic seem to exist in this postseason only to fill up hours of cable TV programming.

No, the fix isn't in. Donaghy isn't directing things from a smuggled cell phone in a prison cell somewhere, and Stern isn't huddled in meetings with Nike executives to make sure

baseball | PEPPERDINE 8, CAL POLY 4



Mustangs fall to Pepperdine

NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly junior second baseman Adam Buschini throws out a runner at first during the Mustangs' 8-4 loss to Pepperdine on Tuesday night at Baggett Stadium. With the loss Cal Poly fell to 33-16 on the year. For a full recap go online at www.mustangdaily.net

Tillman's parents want general's record reviewed

Lara Jakes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The parents of slain Army Ranger and NFL star Pat Tillman voiced concerns Tuesday that the general who played a role in mischaracterizing his death could be put in charge of military operations in Afghanistan.

In a brief interview with The Associated Press, Pat Tillman Sr. accused Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal of covering up the circumstances of the 2004 slaying.

"I do believe that guy participated in a falsified homicide investigation," Pat Tillman Sr. said.

Separately, Mary Tillman called it "imperative" that McChrystal's record be carefully considered before he is confirmed.

Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said Defense Secretary Robert Gates has complete confidence in McChrystal, whom he hopes can be confirmed by the Senate before month's end.

"We feel terrible for what the Tillman family went through, but this matter has been investigated thoroughly by the Pentagon, by the Congress, by outside experts, and all of them have come to

the same conclusion: that there was no wrongdoing by Gen. McChrystal," Morrell said.

Aides to the top Democrat and Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, which will consider the nomination, said they were unaware of any opposition to McChrystal.

McChrystal, a former "black ops" special forces chief credited with nabbing one of the most-wanted fugitives in Iraq, was tapped Monday to lead U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. If confirmed by the Senate, he would replace Gen. David McKiernan, who was fired in an unusual wartime shake-up.

In April 2004, McChrystal approved paperwork awarding Tillman a Silver Star after he was killed by enemy fire — even though he suspected the Ranger had died by fratricide, according to Pentagon testimony later obtained by the AP.

The testimony showed that McChrystal sent a memo to top generals imploring "our nation's leaders," specifically the president, to avoid cribbing the "devastating enemy fire" explanation from the

see Tillman, page 11

see NBA, page 11